

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video server which can accumulatively record a video signal reproduced by a video signal reproducing apparatus, comprising:

5 communicating means for communicating with said video signal reproducing apparatus which reproduces and outputs the video signal on the basis of time information corresponding to an edition unit of said video signal;

control means for allowing said communicating means to communicate with said video signal reproducing apparatus, obtaining said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus, and controlling said video signal reproducing apparatus so as to reproduce the video signal on the basis of said time information;

10 video signal processing means for performing a predetermined process on the basis of said time information to said video signal outputted from said video signal reproducing apparatus on the basis of the control by said control means; and

15 recording means for recording said video signal subjected to said predetermined process by said video signal processing means,

20 wherein said control means obtains said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus at a period longer than said edition unit.

25 2. A server according to claim 1, wherein said control means allows said communicating means to make the

communication, obtains a current state of said video signal reproducing apparatus, and sets said period for obtaining said time information from said video signal reproducing apparatus in accordance with said obtained current state.

5 3. A server according to claim 1, further comprising reference signal receiving means for receiving a reference signal which is shared by said video signal reproducing apparatus,

and wherein said control means presumes said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus on said edition unit basis

by using said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus obtained by making the communication by said communicating means and said reference signal received by said reference signal receiving means.

4. A server according to claim 1, further comprising:
another communicating means for communicating with a host controller;

memory means for holding said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained by making the communication by said communicating means;
and

reference signal receiving means for receiving a reference signal which is shared by said video signal reproducing apparatus,

and wherein when said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is requested from said

host controller through said another communicating means,
said control means directly responds to said host controller
on the basis of said time information held in said memory
means without allowing said communicating means to
5 communicate with said video signal reproducing apparatus.

5. A server according to claim 4, wherein
a current state on said video signal reproducing
apparatus which was obtained by making the communication
by said communicating means is further held in said memory
means, and

when said time information on said video signal
reproducing apparatus is requested from said host controller
through said another communicating means, said control means
directly responds to said host controller on the basis of
said current state and said time information held in said
memory means without allowing said communicating means to
communicate with said video signal reproducing apparatus.

6. A control apparatus for controlling a
reproduction of a video signal by a video signal reproducing
20 apparatus on the basis of time information, comprising:

communicating means for communicating with said
video signal reproducing apparatus which reproduces and
outputs the video signal on the basis of said time information
corresponding to an edition unit of said video signal; and

25 control means for allowing said communicating
means to communicate with said video signal reproducing
apparatus, obtaining said time information on said video

signal reproducing apparatus, and controlling said video signal reproducing apparatus so as to reproduce the video signal on the basis of said time information,

wherein said control means obtains said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus at a period longer than said edition unit.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control means allows said communicating means to make the communication, obtains a current state of said video signal reproducing apparatus, and sets said period for obtaining said time information from said video signal reproducing apparatus in accordance with said obtained current state.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising reference signal receiving means for receiving a reference signal which is shared by said video signal reproducing apparatus,

and wherein said control means presumes said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus on said edition unit basis

by using said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus obtained by making the communication by said communicating means and said reference signal received by said reference signal receiving means.

9. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

another communicating means for communicating with another control apparatus;

memory means for holding said time information
on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained
by making the communication by said communicating means;
and

5 reference signal receiving means for receiving
a reference signal which is shared by said video signal
reproducing apparatus,

and wherein when said time information on said
video signal reproducing apparatus is requested from said
another control apparatus through said another
communicating means, said control means directly responds
to said another control apparatus on the basis of said time
information held in said memory means without allowing said
communicating means to communicate with said video signal
reproducing apparatus.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

a current state on said video signal reproducing
apparatus which was obtained by making the communication
by said communicating means is further held in said memory
means, and

when said time information on said video signal
reproducing apparatus is requested from said another control
apparatus through said another communicating means, said
control means directly responds to said another control
apparatus on the basis of said current state and said time
information held in said memory means without allowing said
communicating means to communicate with said video signal

reproducing apparatus.

11. A control method of controlling a reproduction of a video signal by a video signal reproducing apparatus on the basis of time information, comprising:

5 a communicating step of communicating with said video signal reproducing apparatus which reproduces and outputs the video signal on the basis of said time information corresponding to an edition unit of said video signal; and

10 a control step of controlling said video signal reproducing apparatus so as to reproduce said video signal on the basis of said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained in said communicating step,

15 wherein in the control step, said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is obtained at a period longer than said edition unit.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein

20 in said communicating step, a current state of said video signal reproducing apparatus is obtained by communicating with said video signal reproducing apparatus, and

25 in said control step, said period for obtaining said time information from said video signal reproducing apparatus is set in accordance with said obtained current state.

13. A method according to claim 11, further comprising a reference signal receiving step of receiving a reference

signal which is shared by said video signal reproducing apparatus,

and wherein in said control step, said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is presumed on said edition unit basis

by using said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus obtained by said communicating step and said reference signal received by said reference signal receiving step.

14. A method according to claim 11, further comprising:

another communicating step of communicating with another control apparatus; and

a storing step of storing said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained by making the communication by said communicating step into a memory,

and wherein in said control step,

when said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is requested from said another control apparatus through said another communicating step, a response is directly made to said another control apparatus on the basis of said time information stored in said memory without allowing said communicating step to communicate with said video signal reproducing apparatus.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein in said storing step, a current state on said video

signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained by making the communication by said communicating step is further stored, and

5 in said control step, when said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is requested from said another control apparatus through said another communicating step, a response is directly made to said another control apparatus on the basis of said current state and said time information stored in said memory without allowing said communicating step to communicate with said video signal reproducing apparatus.

16. A recording medium on which a control method of controlling a reproduction of a video signal by a video signal reproducing apparatus on the basis of time information has been recorded, wherein said control method comprises:

15 a communicating step of communicating with said video signal reproducing apparatus which reproduces and outputs said video signal on the basis of said time information corresponding to an edition unit of said video signal; and

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a control step of controlling said video signal reproducing apparatus so as to reproduce said video signal on the basis of said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained in said communicating step,

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wherein in the control step, said time information on said video signal reproducing apparatus is obtained at

a period longer than said edition unit.

17. A medium according to claim 16, wherein

in said communicating step, a current state of
said video signal reproducing apparatus is obtained by
communicating with said video signal reproducing apparatus,
and

in said control step, said period for obtaining
said time information from said video signal reproducing
apparatus is set in accordance with said obtained current
state.

18. A medium according to claim 16, wherein

said control method further comprises a reference
signal receiving step of receiving a reference signal which
is shared by said video signal reproducing apparatus, and

in said control step, said time information on
said video signal reproducing apparatus is presumed on said
edition unit basis

by using said time information on said video signal
reproducing apparatus obtained by said communicating step
and said reference signal received by said reference signal
receiving step.

19. A medium according to claim 16, wherein said
control method further comprises:

another communicating step of communicating with
another control apparatus; and

a storing step of storing said time information
on said video signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained

by making the communication by said communicating step into
a memory, and

in said control step,

when said time information on said video signal
reproducing apparatus is requested from said another control
apparatus through said another communicating step, a
response is directly made to said another control apparatus
on the basis of said time information stored in said memory
without allowing said communicating step to communicate with
said video signal reproducing apparatus.

20. A medium according to claim 19, wherein

in said storing step, a current state on said video
signal reproducing apparatus which was obtained by making
the communication by said communicating step is further
stored, and

in said control step, when said time information
on said video signal reproducing apparatus is requested from
said another control apparatus through said another
communicating step, a response is directly made to said
another control apparatus on the basis of said current state
and said time information stored in said memory without
allowing said communicating step to communicate with said
video signal reproducing apparatus.